Date	Details
	Commerce & Industry Minister, held discussions with MOFTEC Minister Shi Guangsheng. India and China signed Minutes of JEG, a bilateral accord on WTO and MOU on establishing JWG on Ferrous metallurgy. Commerce & Industry Minister visited Beijing, Shanghai, Xiazmen and Quanzhou.
6-7 March 2000	First Round of India-China Security Dialogue at the level of JS(D&ISA) RaKesh Sood and DG(Asia) Zhang Jiuhuan.

Financial assistance to projects

*304. SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has been requested to provide financial assistance as well as special assistance from the centre for the projects like Bamsan-Lagwalti-Sarkaghat-Dharampur water supply project, Larji Hydro-Electric project, Shah-Nehar Major Irrigation project and Swan Catchment treatment project; and

(b) if so, details thereof with action taken thereon, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIES): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) Brief details and action taken in respect of the 4 Projects are as follows:

Bamsau-Lagwalti-Sarkaghat-Dharampur water supply project: This project costing about Rs. 78 crore has been posed for external assistance.

Larji Hydro-Electric project: The cost of this project stands at Rs. 689.06 crore. The outlay approved by the Planning Commission for this project during 9th Plan stands at Rs. 200 crore. For Annual Plan 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000, the approved Outlay stand at Rs. 5 crore; Rs. 40 crore and Rs. 40 crore respectively. For Annual Plan 2000-01, the State Government has proposed an outlay of Rs. 68.86 crore.

Shah-Nehar Major Irrigation Project: The cost of construction of the Shah-Nehar project is to be shared between the Governments of Punjab and Himachal

Pradesh. The Himachal Pradesh and Punjab share works out at Rs. 54.83 crore and Rs. 88.49 crore respectively from 1997-98 to 2002-03. The Punjab share has been incorporated in the State's Annual Plan. A provision of Rs. 5 crore and Rs. 45 crore has been earmarked in 1998-99 and 1999-2000 Annual Plans respectively of the Punjab Government.

Swan Catchment Treatment project: This project involves a cost of about Rs. 106 crore over a period of 10 years. The State Government has been requested to incorporate the project in their regular State Plan budget.

Further a special Plan Assistance of Rs. 200 crore was allocated during 1998-99 as PM's package, and Special Plan Assistance of Rs. 69.00 crore has been approved for the current Annual Plan over and above the normal allocation of Central Assistance to meet the State's pressing requirements. Besides, Additional Central Assistance of Rs. 200 crore has also been provided to the State Government of Himachal Pradesh on 27.1.2000. Out of Rs. 200 crore, Rs. 100 crore is for Basic Minimum Services. The State Government has the flexibility to make provisions for the above projects within the Outlays Approved/Central Assitance/Additional Central Assitance provided to the State.

Survey for Hydro Carbon Reserves in Assam

*305. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a survey of rich hydrocarbon reserves has been undertaken in the recent past in Assam;

(b) if so, what are its findings; and

(c) which areas have been short-listed for exploitation in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b)

Details of the exploratory activities undertaken in Assam by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC), and Oil India Ltd. (OIL) during the years 1996-97 to 1999-2000 (till 1.1.2000) are as under:—

Year	Secismic Survey conducted		Number of exploratory wells drilled	Name of New Structures/ finds where hydrocarbons have been struck
	2D GLK*	3D SQKM**		
1996-97	1079.72	276.96	25	Mekrang, Jutlibari, Madarkhat, Chabua Sealkati, Bachmatia